

AMENDMENT TO THE ABSTRACT

Please amend the Abstract on page 64 as follows:

In a network access system including an external processor and a programmable access device, the external processor transmits a control message to the programmable access device to establish a configuration of the programmable access device. The programmable access device then communicates messages to the external processor for service processing in accordance with the configuration. For example, the control message may be a filter control message that establishes a configuration of a packet header filter in the programmable access device. The packet header filter then communicates network messages filtered from a packet flow in accordance with the configuration established by the control message. To limit the communication of network messages from the programmable access device to the external processor, the ~~programmable access device~~ external processor can send a message setting message interface flags in the programmable access device. The external processor may also transmit a monitor control message to the programmable access device to establish a configuration of a monitor in the programmable access device. The programmable access device then communicates reporting messages to the external processor in response to the configuration of the monitor.